



CROWN MOUNTAIN
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

**“Creating community legacy through parks and recreation”
November 13, 2019**

Board Members Present: Tim Power Smith, Robert Hubbell, Kirk Schneider, Jen Riffle, Bonnie Scott.

Staff Present: Becky Wagner, Nate Grinzinger, Jon Erickson

Public Present: Ted Bristol, Mary Kenyon, Andy Putnam, Rich Pavchek, Harley Stumbaugh, Joellen Stumbaugh, Scott Condon, Bill Reynolds, Rod Woelfle, Tom O’keefe, Corin Brucker, Nancy Bobrow, Toni Kronberg.

Accounting: Jon with Marchetti & Weaver

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 6:01

Public Comment:

Ted Bristol: I used to be part of friends of Crown Mountain. I served 8 years with Crown Mountain Park. I am upset about the newspaper article that came out about Crown. In his years he stated that many things have been requested to come to the park. He feels that the board has a responsibility to respond to community desires. He feels the boards job is to respond to the public. Crown Mountain Park has a budget that is capable, and it is responsible look into recreation opportunities. If Crown were ever to consider a facility on their land, they would have to pay for an intersection of 2-4 million dollars. Now private land has come to Crown Mtn Park that would alleviate the cost of the intersection. This is a responsible thing to look into and the last article missed the point with the Aspen Times.

Tom Okeefe is here to remind Ted that a lot of people voted against the rec center. The spending is reckless. He feels money spent on any studies is terrible. You guys have done a great job with the park, I will say, you’ve done a great job. But I expect no more money to be spent on studies for a rec center.

Joellen Stubaugh stated that we have been around a long time. I have spoke with a lot of people in the community. The last rec center was too big, and it was voted down. But now that private land has come up, this is a very good opportunity to look into. Many of my friends would love to have a winter facility. We would love an indoor track in the winter. If the study was done, we could just start simple. It reminds me when the state gives money to repair roads, if we don’t use the money, its gone. The Crawford’s are very generous. Why would we not look into this? This would skip the 2-4 million-dollar CDOT mess. Last time the rec center was voted down because it was too big. I just wanted to represent the many people that I know who would love to see a rec center in the area.

Bill Reynolds:

It is my understanding that for some reason someone does not like the fact that the Crown Mountain Board has directed staff to move forward with a feasibility study and master plan updates for the Crown Mountain Park. As a long time resident and member of this district, here is my opinion:

I have with me a copy of the introduction of the Congressional Bill S1448 dated June 28, 1990. This is the Bill that authorized the land swap between Eagle and Pitkin County and the USDA and Forest Service. The 2nd paragraph of the introduction reads as follows:

Paragraph 2

This Congressional Bill introduction to Congress from Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell is very clear as to what this land was intended for. The Bill also stipulates that if the land is not used for the intended recreation and administrative purposes, the Federal government can step in and take the land back.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I applaud the efforts of this Board and Park & Rec District staff on the improvements to the park we have already seen since the operating mil levy was increased by a vote to an acceptable realistic level. However, this park was intended for much more than playing fields.

A major part of managing any Park & Rec District is master planning for new recreational facilities, both indoor and out. We cannot lose sight of the fact that our park, an outdoor passive park is almost useless 5 months out of the year. We are all aware that indoor facilities are sorely needed in the mid valley area and local school facilities are maxed out and overused. If you did not master plan and do feasibility studies, you would not be doing your job!

As a long-term resident and member of this district since its inception, I applaud your efforts and encourage this Board and Staff to continue to move forward with planning this park and look to install indoor recreational facilities like every other community in the state. I also ask this board to consider adding \$30,000 in the 2020 budget for staff to build a marketing effort and educational outreach program to show members of our community how communities do and can afford indoor recreational facilities to the benefit of all residents.

Keep up the good work!

Rod Woelfle. Director of Operations from RF Soccer

I want to say thank you. I represent 500 little people. We started with 150 kids 10 years ago. This was when we didn't have fields like Crown Mountain Park. Our growth is completely in thanks to Crown Mountain Park. I want to thank the board and staff. I know 500 kids and thousands of adults would fill indoor space. Huge thank you, the improvements have been great.

Mary Kenyon

I am the Pitkin County aging well coordinator. I just started a nonprofit called A Little Help. There are 4216 seniors in Pitkin County – almost half of which are in the mid valley/CMPRD. 1631 in Western Eagle County. There are 10K seniors in all of Garfield; we estimate there are about 700-900 in and around Carbondale (we are working on getting a better number for them. Over 60y is 20-23% of the population. Exercise classes in El Jebel are full – seniors being turned away due to overcrowding. 21% of Pitkin County and 30% of Eagle County seniors say they feel lonely or isolated. That number jumps to 39% in Garfield.

The seniors have no place to recreate. Loneliness is rampant in the senior population. There are thousands of lonely and isolated seniors in our community. I can tell you that there is definitely a need for indoor facilities for our Seniors.

Rich Pavcek served on the board for a few years. He commented that it's good to see this many people in the room to talk about this stuff. Rich was the president at the time Crown passed the tax increase. It

wasn't just to fix sprinklers. It is to improve the park. Is it a rec center or a facility, nobody knows. It's the boards decision to decide. Let's not get out of hand with a rec center opposition. There is a consulting budget for this type of thing. I would encourage you to pass a larger consulting item. I remember the days where nobody knew where this park was. I commend the staff for what they have done. Now the next step is to move further. Anyone who thinks this is about just the park boundary, hasn't been paying attention.

Toni Kronberg

I have a quick little list. Can we post the agenda for the meetings on the door? Last Friday, the Eagle County Treasurer came by to see what this area would like to have. I think Eagle County should fix the intersection. My wish list is to get a senior center and a small exercise pool for all ages. Is Crown prepared when the Forest Service is ready to sell their land by Crown? The next thing is that we need to be working with the Town of Basalt. My next goal is to get some type of aquatic facility near Crown. The real reason I came tonight is for the dog park. My suggestion is to put a path into the dog park to help with ice.

Nancy Bobrow said she loves the facility idea and agrees that the ice is a liability at the park. She feels that the door between both parks should be closed off better. I really adore the senior center but really endorse caution. We really want a facility for a community thing and not necessarily pro sports or Olympics. I really think we need indoor facilities in the winter.

Motion to approve 10-2019 payables

Tim motions to approve. Kirk seconds. All in favor.

Approval of October 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Tim motions to approve October meeting minutes. Kirk seconds. All in favor.

2019 Budget amended

Bonnie closes the hearing and makes a motion to amend the 2019 budget. Tim seconds. Robert and Kirk in favor. Jen abstains. Jen would have preferred that we wait till 2020 to move forward on bike park so it will be reflected in the strategic plan. She would like to strive to look and plan ahead so that all programs are accounted for. Becky feels we can save the district money by doing work such as irrigation and the rough-in build during the down times when labor is much cheaper. We can also saving money within the consulting budget by establishing drainage issues throughout the winter.

Marchetti & Weaver Budget Summary

Overall, the District is in a good financial position. The 2020 budget calls for the allocation of almost \$480,000 to the capital projects fund in 2020. Operational expenditures are up over 2019, but a large portion of that is for PR & Consulting. Given the District's prior financial situation, it makes sense that the District would need to conduct new studies in order to guide the planning for future capital repairs and maintenance in the park. It would not be unreasonable to expect this line item to decrease after 2020. Additional increases due to the expanded bike park related programming and additional staffing are also included in the 2020 budget.

Even with these operating increases, the 2020 budget adds \$205,766 to the District's overall fund balance, leaving an ending fund balance of \$1,047,483.

Board opens public hearing for 2020 budget

Bill Reynolds urges that there will be challenges with big changes. He recommends that more marketing dollars can help with communication with the public and transparency. Bill would also encourage the board to make sure we have enough money in consulting. He thanks the board and feels we are rowing in the right direction

Scott Condon asked how one can get the budget. Becky replied that the budget is online, but we will send the budget off to him.

Scott has one humble suggestion to accurately show the votes per board member on any motions.

Tim agrees with Bill that its pennies on the dollar for some big decision-making regarding consulting. Becky agrees that we should increase consulting to \$100K.

Jenn would like to see a breakdown of the exact consulting expenditures for 2020.

Robert feels that consulting is very tough to predict due to things changing or coming up last minute.

Tim suggest that consulting go to \$100K. Bonnie suggest that PR should go to \$20K.

Jenn suggested an email to get surveys completed.

She is thinking survey monkey to go out to the public.

Jenn mentioned that Pitkin County Open Space put out a sandwich board on a trail.

Becky feels that Basalts Master Plan can also guide us toward community input.

Bill Reynolds mentioned his well house by Eagle County that could have an electronic sign board if needed. He believes his board would support it.

Jenn: Would like to know if any money from the 2020 consulting budget will be spent on indoor recreation facilities.

Rebecca: No, not at this time.

Jenn: One other thing I asked for is to tie the reserve study to the 2020 budget.

Jon: We use the reserve study more as a long-range tool. This gives us an idea on longer term cash flow. We tend to look at those as broader guidelines, so assets don't fall off our radar. Then we keep up on conditions and whether we need to update or delay taking care of those things. We don't use it as a static document but more as a living document.

As an example, Jon mentioned the large-scale expense in the reserve study for the parking lots to be Crack and Sealed. After the asphalt company took a look, they felt the asphalt has had held up better then expected so we didn't have to spend that money associated with the reserve study replacement. This is an example of why we don't lock the reserve study with our budget.

Becky: Our VFD unit went down this year. Our irrigation is constantly struggling. Many things change at the park and we simply adjust accordingly. It is a repair and replace budget.

Jon: one thing you guys are discussing is consulting. Now that the park has funds, now you see that the plan is to look at things that need to be evaluated like drainage and parking. 2020 could be a big year for consulting and then it could go down significantly in 2021. But infrastructure is aging and there will be expenses.

Jenn: We far exceeded the reserve fund of 18% and I'd like to come to that.

Becky: I'm uncertain why we are talking about percentages as the percentages were not part of the ballot initiative and were estimations on how money would be spent. Please refer to the article in the Aspen Times that explains why the board choose not to assign percentages to the ballot initiative. It was not recommended by consults for the overall health of the park.

Jon: 2020 is slanting toward an operations year.

Jenn: I think we need to be conscious of building the community trust.

Jen: can you explain the increased contingency number.

Jon: that \$43,000 is a 10% contingency on all projects and consistent with what we allocate for all recreation districts.

I would love to see more expenditures on trees and shade that will also help the carbon footprint.

Becky: we are adding 10-12 trees in 2020

Robert: lets make sure we get the proper consulting to plant the right trees in the right place.

Robert motions to approve the resolution to adopt the 2020 budget for consulting to increase to \$100K, advertising to \$20K and tree budget to \$12K.

Tim motions to approve the 2020 budget as is with the addition of consulting moving to \$100,000 and Advertising \$20,000. Kirk seconds.

Motion to adjourn by Tim. Kirk Seconds. All in favor.

Chairman Signature _____